



Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative

The Department of Human Rights, Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) proposes to fully implement the *Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative*, an innovative cost-benefit analysis approach to help the decision-making process in policy and programs that are proven to work. CJJP is Iowa's Statistical Analysis Center (Iowa Code 216A.136), which ensures CJJP access to relevant justice and other system data and information from state and local agencies. This access gives CJJP a unique capability to conduct research, planning, data coordination, and information clearinghouse functions with Iowa's multiple systems from a neutral, independent, objective position in state government.

ANNUAL BUDGET: \$105,000 to fully implement all components of the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative.

The budget will pay for one staff person, a Justice Systems Analyst, who will be responsible for the implementation of Results First in the following policy areas:

- Adult criminal justice Juvenile justice Child welfare
- Mental health Substance abuse Early childhood education.

Once fully developed, the Results First Initiative will use Iowa-specific data to:

- Identify programs that work and those that do not based on evidence-based research;
- Calculate potential returns on investments for programs included in the Results First model;
- Build an inventory of the programs and services that taxpayers pay for;
- Rank programs based on their projected benefits, costs, and investment risks;
- Compare the efficacy of programs implemented by the state against a nationwide database;
- Identify ineffective programs that could be targeted for cuts or elimination; and
- Predict the impact of different policy options.

BACKGROUND:

The Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative is a joint project of the Pew Charitable Trusts and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation that works with states to implement an innovative cost-benefit analysis approach to help them invest in policy and programs that are proven to work. Currently, 19 states are participating in the Results First Initiative – five of those states have used the model to target \$80 million in funding for effective programs that are projected to generate as much as \$38 in social benefits for each \$1 invested. There is no cost to the state for the use of the model or the on-going technical assistance.

In 2012, the Iowa Department of Corrections (DOC) launched Results First to evaluate adult corrections programs and calculated the rate of return on investment for Iowa adult offender programs in three program areas: institutional programs, community programs for prison releases, and community programs for higher risk probationers. Based on the results, changes were implemented to improve services for offenders.

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